

## **DAVID EVANS.**

### **Biography from the Lehi Centennial History**

Bishop David Evans, son of Israel and Abigail Evans, was born in Cecil County, Maryland, October 27, 1804. His early training in life was on the frontier in Pennsylvania. He was of a rugged character, such as to fit him for the events which were to follow. His career was remarkable for his great industry, frugality, and charity to the poor, his public spiritedness and broad, self-acquired education.

In 1826 he married Mary Beck and moved to Richland County, Ohio. Here he bought and opened up a new farm, where he lived until he was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 6, 1833.

On the 11th of the same month he was ordained a priest and immediately commenced traveling and preaching, selling his farm to enable him to perform his missionary labors. He was ordained to the office of an elder July 21, 1833. He went with Zion's camp from Ohio to Missouri in 1834, and received ordination to the First quorum of Seventy under the hands of the Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon,, most of whom he had baptized himself. Here he bought land and again made a home. He was with the Saints through all their persecutions in Missouri, among which was the terrible massacre at Haun's Mill.

In December, 1838, he and family were compelled to flee from the state of Missouri, leaving all their property behind. He then went to Adams County, Illinois, and commenced preaching and baptizing many. He lost his wife, after which he moved to Nauvoo and married Barbara Ann Ewell November, 1841.

In 1842 when Nauvoo was organized into wards he was ordained bishop of the Eleventh Ward. He remained here until the Saints were driven out, when he was appointed captain of a company to cross the plains, and arrived in the valley September 15, 1850.

He moved to Lehi the following February, over which place he was appointed to preside as bishop, the duties of which he faithfully performed for 28 years, tendering his resignation on account of old age and failing health, August 24, 1879.

He located the city of Lehi and laid it off into blocks and lots with a pocket compass, tape line, and square. He was elected to the first Legislature of Utah and acted for many years as a member of that body. He was Colonel of Militia, served as Major of the Lehi Military District several terms and was Mayor of Lehi City three terms.

He married Climena Gibson in 1854, Rebecca Coleman in 1856, and Christina Holm in 1861; and was the father of 41 children and a good provider for all his family. His death occurred June 23, 1883, and the following day a special train was dispatched from Salt Lake City which brought President Woodruff, Bishop Hunter and several other leading men to attend the funeral. The cortege to the cemetery was the largest ever formed in Lehi, 115 vehicles being in line.